

THE
S P E E C H
OF

DENZELL HOLLES Esquire.
Delivered at the Lords Barr, *Wednesday*
the 15th. of *June*. Vpon the Impeachment of the
Earles of *North-bampton*, *Devon-shire*, *Mon-*
month, and *Dover*, and of the Lords *Rich. An-*
dever, *Grey of Ruthen*, *Coventry* and *Capell*,
for their contempt in departing from the
PARLIAMENT, and not re-
turning upon Summons.

Orderèd that this speech shall be forthwith printed, and
that none shall print it, but who *M. Holles* shall appoint.
H. Elsyng Cler. Parl. D. Com.

I appoint that none shall print this but *Thomas Underhill*,
Denzell Holles.

LONDON,
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THE SPEECH OF DENZELL

*Holles Esquire, Delivered at the Lords Barr, Wednesday
the 15th. of June. Upon the Impeachment, &c.*

My Lords,

BY the Command of the Knights, Citizens and Burgeses of the House of Commons, I come hither unto your Lordships in the behalfe of the *Parliament*, or rather in the behalfe of the whole *Kingdome*, labouring with much distraction, many feares, great apprehensions of evill and mischiefe intended against it, and now hatching and preparing by that Malignant party, which thirsts after the destruction of *Religion, Laws* and *Liberty*, all which are foulded up, cherished, and preserved in the carefull bosome of the Parliament.

My Lords, The Parliament is the Foundation and Basis of Government, and consequently of the Peace and Happinesse of the *Kingdome*. As it creates the Law by which we are ruled and governed in Peace and quietnesse, so it preserves the Law in Power and Authority : It watches over our Religion, that it be not supplanted and changed by superstitious Innovations; the truth and substance of it eaten up with Formality, vaine Pompe, and unnecessary Ceremonies ; the grosse Errors of Popery and Arminianisme imposed upon us, as the Doctrine of our Church ; A way opened to all licentiousnesse; And occasion hereby taken to oppress and persecute all religious and conscientious men that shall oppose these Proceedings (as hath been used of late.) It is the *Conservative* of the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and the *Corrective* of Injustice and Oppression; whereby equall Right is distributed to all, and every Man hath that

benefit and protection of Justice, which is due unto him. It is that, by which alone, common Necessities can be provided for, and publike Feares prevented: So that I may say, not onely the Peace, and Happinesse, and well-being, but the very *Being* of this Kingdome, can have no other bottom to stand upon, but the Parliament, it being the foundation upon which the whole Frame of the Common-wealth is built.

Therefore those who would destroy the Building, apply themselves to undermine the Foundation, If they can take away Parliaments, or but weaken the Power and Authority of Parliament, which is all one (For if it once have no Power, it will soone have no being) they know then all will be at their mercy, nothing will stand in their way to oppose them, but a flood of violence will run over, and cover the whole Surface of the Kingdome; and carry away all, both present Enjoyment, and future Hope of Religion, Liberty, and whatsoever else is precious and deare unto us.

And accordingly, it hath ever been the Policie of evill Counsellors (who are the greatest Enemies we have in the World, or can have) to strike at Parliaments, keepe off Parliaments, breake Parliaments, or divide Parliaments, by making Factions, casting in Diversions, and Obstructions, to hinder and interrupt Proceedings of Parliament: All against the Parliament.

Your Lordships have had experience of this Truth this Parliament; A Succession of Designs upon it: First to awe it, and take away the Freedom of it by the terreur of an Army; Then to bring Force against it, actually to assault it, and with the Sword cut in under this onely *Band*, which tyes and knits up King and People, the People among themselves, and the whole Frame of this Government in one firme, and I hope indissoluble Knot of Peace and Vnity.

God diverted those Designs, did blow upon them; presently another is set upon, which was, to obstruct and hinder our Proceedings, That in the meane time the flame of *Rebellion* might consume the Kingdome of *Ireland*, and Distempers, Distractions, and Jealousies be fomented here at home, to teare out the Bowels of this Kingdome, the Parliament being disabled from helping it, by occasion of so many Diversions, so much businesse cut out unto it, many Obstructions and Difficulties, especially that great one, from which all the rest receive Countenance and Support, his Majesties absenting himselfe, not concurring with us, and so withdrawing both his *Presence* and *Influence*, by which meanes such Remedies could not be applyed, as were necessary, and what was done, was done with infinite trouble to the Parliament, and excessive charge

charge to the Subject, double, trebble, what otherwise would have served the turne : So the Subject is grieved and oppressed with charge, and the blame of all is laid upon the Parliament, and the Parliament unjustly said to be the cause of all those evils, which the Authors of them had made so great, and so confirmed and secured by the frequent interruptions of the Parliament, that they could not suddenly, nor easily be suppressed or removed.

Well, but by Gods infinite blessing the Parliament was in a faire possibility to wade through this likewise ; And though the Night had been blacke and stormy, some day began to appeare : Miraculously our Armes have prospered in *Ireland*, and God be praised, the malevolent Practises of these Vipers at home, as they appeared, were in some sort mastered ; And the Parliament began to act and operate towards the settling of the great Affaires both of Church and State, and providing for the Defence and Safety of this Kingdome, against either forrain Invasion, or any stirring of the disaffected Party among themselves.

Then three wayes are together assayed for the weakening and invalidating the Proceeding and Power of the Parliament, and making way for the utter subversion of it.

One, Force is gathered together at *Yorke*, under pretence of a Guard for his Majesties Person, to make an opposition against the Parliament, and by a strong hand to support and protect *Delinquents*, so as no Order of Parliament can be obeyed, but on the other side is sleighted and scorned, to make the Parliament of no reputation, to be but *Imago Parliamenti*, a meere shadow, without substance, without efficacy.

An other, To send out in his Majesties Name, and as *Declarations* and *Messages* from Him, bitter Invectives against the Parliament, to perplex it, and engage it in the expence of time to answer them : And besides, cunningly to insinuate and infuse into the People by false Colors and Gloses, a disopinion and dislike of the Parliament, and if it be possible, to stir up their spirits to rise against it, though to the ruine of themselves, their Wives and Children.

The third Plot is, The *Members* are drawne away, and perswaded to forsake their duty and attendance here, and goe downe to *Yorke* ; thereby to blemish the Actions of both *Houses*, as done by a few, and an inconsiderable number, and rather a *Party*, then a *Parliament*, and perhaps, to raise and set up an *Anti-Parliament* there.

My Lords, This is now the great Designe, whereby they hope by little and little, the Parliament shall even bleed to death, and moulder to nothing, the *Members* dropping away, one after another. A desperate and

dangerous practise, and as your *Lordships* well observed (when you were pleased to communicate this businesse to us) an effect of the evill *Councels* now prevailing, and tending to the dissolution of the Parliament, of this Parliament, which under God must be the *Preserver* of three Kingdoms, and keep them firme and loyall to their King, subject to his Crown, save them from being turned into a *Chaos* of disorder and confusion, and made a spectacle of misery and desolation.

This *Parliament*, which is the last hope of the long oppressed, and in other *Countries* even almost wholly destroyed *Protestant Religion*: This *Parliament* which is the only meanes to continue us to be a Nation of free-men and not slaves, to be owners of any thing: that we may call our wives, children, our estates, nay our bodies our owne: In a word, which must stand in the gapp to prevent an in-let, an inundation of all misery and confusion.

My LORDS, This *Parliament* they desire to destroy, but I hope it will destroy the destroyers, and be a *Wall of fire* to consume them, as it is a *Wall of brasse* to us, to defend King and Kingdom, us, and all we have.

Your *Lordships* wisely fore-saw this mischiefe, and as wisely have indeavoured to prevent it, by making your *Orders*, to keepe your Members here, as that of the 9th. of *Aprill*, and severall other *Orders* enjoining them all to attend; thereby restraining them from repaying to *Torke*, where the Clouds were observed to gather so fast, and threaten a storme, and such preparations to be made against the Parliament, that it necessitated both *House* to passe a Vote: *That the King seduced by Wicked Councell, intended to make Warre against the Parliament, and all who shall serve or assist in such warres are declared to bee Traitors*, which Vote pa^d the 20th. of *May*: so setting a marke upon that place, and their opinion concerning those who should at this time resort thither.

Yet now, in such a *coniuncture* of time, when the Kingdome had never more need of a Parliament, and the Parliament never more need of all the helpe and assistance of the best indeavour and advise of every *Member*, the safety and even being of three *Kingdomes* depending upon it; after such *Orders* and *Commands* of your *Lordships* House to the contrary; such a *Vote* of both Houses; and expressely against their Duty, being called thither by Writ under the great Seale, which is the Kings grèatest and highest Command, and not controulable nor to be dispersed with by any other Command from him whatsoever; and called, to treat and consult *de arduis Regni*, the great urging and pressing a faires of the Kingdome, never more urgent, never more pressing; notwithstanding

standing all this; these Lords, the Earles of Northampton, Devonshire, Dover, Mounmouth, and the Lords Rich, Andover, Grey, Coventry and Capell have left their stations, withdrawne themselves and are gone to Yorke, and being summoned to appear by an Order of the 30. of May, instead of obedience, returne a refusall, by a slighting and scornfull Letter, which hath bin so adjudged, both by your Lordships and the House of Commons.

My LORDS, The House of Commons hath likewise upon the consideration and debate of this businesse, finding it so much to concerne the safety of the Kingdome, and the very being of the Parliament, passed this Vote,

That the departing of these nine Lords from the Parliament, without leave, after such time as both Houses had declared, That the King seduced by wicked Counsell intended to make warre against the Parliament, and their still continuing at Yorke, notwithstanding their Summons and Command, is a high affront and contempt of both Houses, And that the said Lords therein, did as much as in them lay, that the Service of Parliament might be deserv'd, and are justly suspected to promote a warre against the Parliament.

And the House in further prosecution of their Duty in this particular, and in pursuance of their Protestation, which obliges them to endeavour to bring to condigne punishment all such high Offenders against, not only the Priviledges, but the very essence of Parliament, have sent me up to impeach these Lords, and desire that speedy and exemplary Justice may be done upon them.

And accordingly, *I doe here in the Name of the Knights, Citizens and Burgeses of the Commons House assembled in Parliament, and in the Name of all the Commons of England, Impeach SPENCER Earle of Northampton, WILLIAM Earle of Devonshire, HENRY Earle of Dover, HENRY Earle of Mounmouth, CHARLES Lord HOWARD of Charlton, ROBERT Lord RICH, CHARLES Lord GREY of Ruthen, THOMAS Lord COVENTRY, and ARTHUR Lord CAPELL, for these high Crimes and Misdemeanours following, viz.*

For that, contrary to their duty, they being Peeres of the Realme, and summoned by Writ to attend the Parliament, and contrary to an Order of the House of Peeres of the 9th. of Aprill last, and severall other Orders requiring the Attendance of the Members of that House

House, and after a Vote past in both Houses the 30th of May last, That the King seduced by wicked Councell, intended to make warre against the Parliament, and that whosoever served or assisted him in that Warr, was adjudged a Traitor, did notwithstanding afterwards in the same month of May, contemptuously, having notice of the said Votes and Orders, with draw themselves from the said House of Peeres, and repaire to the City of Yorke, where the Preparations of the said warre were, and yet are, in contrivance and agitation, they knowing of such Preparations: And being by an Order of the 30th of May duly summoned by the House of Peeres, to make their appearance before that House upon the 8. day of June last past, they refused to appeare, and returned a scornefull Answer by a Letter under their hands, directed to the Speaker of the Lords House, and remaining there upon record.

For which Crimes and Misdemeanors to the interruption of the proceedings of Parliament, and great affaires of the Kingdome, and tending to the dissolution of the Parliament, and disturbance of the Peace of the Kingdome, I am commanded in the Name of the said Commons, to demand of your Lordships, That the said Lords may be forthwith put to their Answer, and receive speedy and exemplary punishment, according to their demerits.

The Commons saving to themselves liberty at all times hereafter, exhibit any other or further Impeachment or Accusation against the said Lords or any of them.

FINIS.

